approve benefits for a second or subsequent change of program, VA must first determine that the new program is suitable to the claimant's aptitudes, interests, and abilities. VA Form 22–8873 is used to gather the necessary information only if the suitability of the proposed training program cannot be established from information already available in the claimant's VA records. VBA uses the information to ensure that programs are suitable to a claimant's aptitudes, interests, and abilities. Without the information, VA could not determine further entitlement to education benefits.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 10,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20,000.

Dated: October 1, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

William T. Morgan,

Program Analyst.

[FR Doc. 97–28395 Filed 10–24–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0406]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Reinstatement

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the verification of an existing VA benefit-related indebtedness of veteran home loan applicants.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be

received on or before December 26, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–0406'' in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273–8310 or FAX (202) 273–5981.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13; 44 U.S.C., 3501–3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Verification of VA Benefit-Related Indebtedness, VA Form 26–8937.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0406.

Type of Review: Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Abstract: Since March of 1992, and a result of OMB's approval of VA's Debt Collection Plan, lenders authorized to make VA-guaranteed home or manufactured home loans on the automatic basis have been required to determine through VA Finance Officers whether any benefits-related debts exist in the veteran-borrower's name prior to the closing of any automatic loan. VA Form 26–8937 is designed to assist lenders and VA in the completion of debt checks in a uniform manner.

Affected Public: Individual or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 25,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 5 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300,000.

Dated: October 1, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

William T. Morgan,

Program Analyst.

[FR Doc. 97–28396 Filed 10–24–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0262]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on a reporting requirement to identify persons authorized to certify reports to VA on behalf of an educational institution or job training establishment.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before December 26, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–0262'' in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273–8310 or FAX (202) 273–5981.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13; 44 U.S.C., 3501–3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites